

Identity Documents

A guide to common identity documents that affect trans diverse people and how to amend them.



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Other Identity Documents

Introduction

For transgender people, there can be a range of identity documents that you may want to change so that they properly reflect your gender and name. Here are some of the most common areas where people may want to amend their documents.

Most government and private agencies will only change your records if you have received an updated birth certificate, name change certificate, or Recognised Details Certificate. This fact sheet applies to adults (18 years and over) who want to change their identity documents. If a child wishes to change their documents, some links are provided in this document for information, but it is important that the child and their parent/guardian seek support and legal advice.

Birth Certificates

Amending your birth certificate

As of 1 July 2025, individuals in NSW can **legally change the sex** recorded on their birth certificate or obtain a Recognised Details Certificate without undergoing any medical procedures. The new birth certificate will not show that you have changed your gender. Your birth will be registered in the current year showing the new sex. You can also apply to change your name concurrently if desired.

For more information, visit <https://www.nsw.gov.au/family-and-relationships/name-changes-and-corrections/change-of-sex>

How to Apply

1. Eligibility

- Born or adopted in NSW: You can apply to change the sex on your birth certificate
- Born overseas: You can apply for a Recognised Details Certificate acknowledging your sex in NSW

In NSW, you can choose from the following sex descriptors:

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- Non-specified

2. Required Documents

- Proof of identity documents
- A statutory declaration from an adult who has known you for at least 12 months (not a relative)
- For children under 18, applications must be made by parents, guardians, or a Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) caseworker

3. Application Process

- Online through the NSW Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages (BDM)
- In-person: Visit a Service NSW Centre with your documents

4. Fees and Processing Times

- Application Fee: \$70 (includes \$11 postage and handling).
- Certificate Fee: \$56 for a new birth certificate or Recognised Details Certificate.

5. Processing Time:

- Online applications: Up to 4 weeks
- Postal or in-person applications: Up to 7 weeks

As an adult in NSW, you're also eligible to **change your name** if:

- you're not a restricted person
- your birth is registered in NSW
- your birth is not registered in NSW and a protection order has been made to protect you and/or your children from domestic violence
- you were born overseas and have been a resident in NSW for 3 consecutive years immediately prior to your application.

For more information, visit <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/register-a-change-of-name-adult>

To register a change of name for a child under 18 years, visit <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/register-change-name-child>

You should know that it is an offence to change your name with the intention to deceive someone. You are not allowed to change your name to:

- Something that is obscene or offensive
- Something that could not practically be used
- Something that resembles an official title
- Something that is against the public interest

The cost for registering a change of name is \$195.00 for standard service or \$224 for priority service. The processing time varies, but is faster with priority service. You will also need to provide some current identification. A list of the identification documents you will need can be found here

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/register-a-change-of-name-adult>.

Change of name by repute or usage

You can also change your name without taking any formal steps. Once you have used, and become known by, the new name, the law will recognise it. But you should be aware that it may be harder to change your other identity documents if you don't have documents to prove that you have changed your name.



Passport

Anyone who is eligible for an Australian Passport is able to update the gender marker on their passport to F (female), M (male) or X (unspecified or non-binary). To do this you will need:

- Either a statement from a registered medical practitioner
- Psychologist indicating you have had or are receiving treatment for gender transition
- Your birth certificate showing your corrected gender
- Other documentations and requirements for a minor

To update the name recorded in your passport you will need:

- Your birth certificate showing your updated name
- Or a change of name certificate issued by the Registry of Births, Death and Marriage. Find information, visit:

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/register-a-change-of-name-adult>

Please be aware

Not all countries will accept documents of identity as valid. Some countries might view a document of identity as suspicious and might delay or harass you. Some countries do not accept an X marker as valid.

Please visit Smart Traveller for advice on countries where your documentation might not be recognised.

If you were born overseas

To get a new passport, you will need to provide D.F.A.T. with a revised citizenship certificate that records your correct gender, or some other formal evidence from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship that recognises that your gender has been changed.

Further information

The Gender Centre Inc.

Phone: **(02) 9519 7599**

Inner City Legal Centre

Phone: **1800 244 481**

Australian Passport Information Service

Phone: **131 232**



Driver's Licence

For a name change to your driver's licence, you need to submit form 1021, found on the Service NSW website or you can pick a form up from a Service NSW office.

You will also need to provide one of the following identity documents:

- A Change of Name Certificate issued by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, or
- A birth certificate showing your name at birth and your new name

You also need to provide Service NSW with other documents to prove your identity. A list of these documents can be found on their website. You should be aware that Service NSW will keep a record of your old name on their system as an alias.

To change your gender marker, you will need to provide your birth certificate.



Centrelink & Medicare

To change your gender marker with Centrelink or Medicare, you will need to visit a Services Australia Centre and provide original copies of one of the following:

- Birth certificate with your new name and/or gender markers
- Passport with new name and/or gender markers
- A statement from a registered medical practitioner or registered psychologist
- Gender Recognition Certificate from the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages

You can also change your markers by mail at Centrelink and Medicare. Find out more on the Centrelink website. You will need to provide certified copies of your identity documents.

For a name change you will need to visit a Services Australia Centre. Find out what documents you need to provide on the Services Australia website.

Amending Records with NSW Government

You can apply to amend your records held with NSW government departments including the Police, Department of Community Services and Department of Housing. You have the right to amend your records held with a NSW government department if:

- The document contains information about your personal affairs
- The information is used by the government agency
- You believe the information is incomplete, incorrect, out of date or misleading

If you want to amend your records, your application should be in writing:

- Say that it is an application under the Freedom of Information Act 1989 (NSW)
- Contain enough information so that the agency can identify the document
- State the reasons why you believe the document is incomplete, incorrect, out of date or misleading

Other ID Documents

There are a number of other documents that you might want to change when you change the official record of your name and gender. These can be:

- University, TAFE and school qualifications
- Insurance policies
- Professional or skills-based licences
- Banks
- Electricity, gas and phone companies
- Credit Cards

Many of these organisations will have different policies for changing your records. If you have any records or identity documents from them, it is best to call the organisation and ask them about the process for changing your records help with them.



Contacts

Inner City Legal Centre – **(02) 9332 1966**

NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages – **1300 655 236**

Roads and Traffic Authority – **132 213**

Centrelink – **131 021**

Medicare – **132 911**

NSW Department of Lands – **1300 052 637**

Office of Fair Trading – **133 220**

Department of Immigration and Citizenship – **131 880**

NSW Department of Housing – **1800 629 212**

Australian Electoral Commission – **132 326**



P. 02 9519 7599 or 02 9569 2399

E: reception@gendercentre.org.au

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